

Message Text

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21-12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DRC-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AF-10 EUR-25

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O R 070928Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9700

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 7039

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IS XF

SUBJ: FONMIN EBAN REACTS POSITIVELY TO NIXON PRESS CONFERENCE

1. MAARIV CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWING FONMIN EBAN AT THIS HOME SEPT 5 WRITES THAT HE RECEIVED IMMEDIATE POSITIVE REACTION FROM EBAN TO THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE. EBAN, AFTER HEARING TEXT OF MID-EAST SECTION OVER TELEPHONE REPORTEDLY SAID, "FANTASTIC, FANTASTIC."

2. TEXT OF INTERVIEW AS CARRIED IN MAARIV SEPT 7 IS AS FOLLOWS: (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED).

3. BEGIN TEXT. A. DOES ARAB PRESSURE ON US WORRY YOU AND COULD IT LEAD TO US TURNING ITS BACK ON ISRAEL OR AT LEAST A BALANCE IN US POLICY TOWARDS MIDDLE EAST?

4. A. "PRESENT ENERGY CRISIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST. I HAVE IMPRESSION THAT US ADMIN-
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ISTRATION RECOGNIZES THIS FACT. INSTEAD OF MY MAKING FORECASTS

REGARDING US POSITION, I SHALL LET US STATE ITS POSITION.
PRESIDENT NIXON SAID IN MOST FORCEFUL MANNER THAT ISSUE
OF OIL WILL NOT INFLUENCE US POSITION AND ARABS MUST BE
WARNED NOT TO PLAY THIS CARD. PRESIDENT FOUND IT NECESSARY
TO RECALL--AND THIS IS MOST MEANINGFUL-- IN CONNECTION TO
RELATIONS WITH LIBYA THE FATE OF DR MOSSADEQH IN ISRAEL.
I'M NOT AUTHORIZED, OF COURSE, TO MAKE PREDICTIONS REGARDING
AMERICAN POLICY FOREVER, BUT AT THIS STATE I HAVE THE
IMPRESSION THAT IT IS IMMUNIZING ITSELF AGAINST BLACKMAIL
TO CHANGE ITS POLICY BY USING OIL THREATS.

5. IN COURSE OF 1973 I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH SEVERAL
AMERICANS IN VARIOUS POSITIONS. I ASKED THEM THE FOLLOWING:
"US IS APPROACHING ITS 200TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY.
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT IT WILL AGREE TO BE SUBJECTED TO SOME
DESERT KING OR PERSIAN GULF SHEIKH UP TO THE POINT OF LOSING
ITS INDEPENDENCE?" COMMON REACTION WAS TO EMPHASIZE
ELEMENT OF NATIONAL PRIDE IN US. THEREFORE CONCLUSION
IS THAT US WILL ACT TO REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON OIL SOURCES
WHICH CANNOT BE RELIED UPON BY INCREASING ITS OUTPUT OF
GIGANTIC ENERGY SOURCES NOT YET EXPLOITED.

6. I AGREE WITH DEPUTY FINMIN DINSTEIN THAT ARAB THREAT
IS BOOMERANG WHICH WILL CAUSE US TO QUICKEN EFFORTS
TO DISCOVER AND OPERATE OTHER ENERGY SOURCES LIKE ALASKA
PIPELINE AND SPEED UP R AND D IN UTILIZATION OF COAL TO
PREVENT ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS. NEVERTHELESS, SOMETIMES
SITUATIONS DEVELOP WHERE REALITY IS ONE THING AND PSYCHOSIS
IN PRESS AND IN PUBLIC IS SOMETHING ELSE. IF PSYCHOSIS
DEVELOPS IT WILL NECESSITATE SPECIAL INFORMATION EFFORTS.
UP TO NOW AT LEAST, US STAND IS ONE OF FIRMNESS.
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